

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11  
COME-00 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 HA-05 /080 W  
-----113879 260144Z /70

R 251336Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5977  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ECIN, EEC, GR  
SUBJECT: THE ISSUE OF REFERENDUM FOR GREECE'S EC ENTRY

REF: THESSALONIKI 121

1. THE MOST INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT IN THE FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE GREEK-EX MIXED PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE IN THESSALONIKI LAST WEEK (SEE REFTEL), WAS THE UNSCHEDULED DEBATE ON THE MERITS OF A REFERENDUM FOR GREECE'S ACCESSION TO THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES. THE EDHK REPRESENTATIVES' UNEXPECTED ENDORSEMENT OF THE IDEA (ALTHOUGH PARTY LEADER ZIGHDIS LATER CLAIMED HE HAD RAISED THE ISSUE LAST OCTOBER ) UNITED MOST OF THE OPPOSITION IN SUPPORT OF HOLDING A REFERENDUM.

2. RAISED INITIALLY AT THE MEETING BY A DUTCH SOCIALIST PARLIAMENTARIAN, THE IDEA DREW STRONG SUPPORT FROM PASOK AND EDHK DEPUTIES PRESENT. HOWEVER, THE GOG'S REPRESENTATIVE (MINISTER KONTOGIORGHIS) IMMEDIATELY REJECTED IT. HE CLAIMED THAT THE ISSUE, AS A PURELY DOMESTIC GREEK CONCERN, NOT ONLY WAS OUTSIDE THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEETING'S PURVIEW BUT THAT IN FACT THE GREEK PEOPLE HAD ALREADY EXPRESSED THEMSELVES IN FAVOR THROUGH THE MANDATE GIVEN TO CARAMANLIS IN LAST NOVEMBER'S ELECTION. THE SOCIALIST EC PARLIAMENTARIANS COMMENTED THAT THE COMMUNITY HAD A RIGHT TO KNOW GREEK VIEWS ON ACCESSION AND THAT THE REFERENDA ON UK AND DANISH ACCESSION HAD SERVED TO SETTLE THE QUESTION ONCE AND FOR ALL.

3. ALTHOUGH THE ISSUE OF A REFERENDUM TENDS TO BECOME OBSCURED BY THE SURROUNDING RHETORIC AND POLEMICS, CONSTITUTIONALLY IT CAN BE REDUCED TO THE QUESTION: IS ACCESSION TO THE EC OF "CRUCIAL NATIONAL INTEREST"? THE GOVERNMENT MAINTAINS THAT ENTRY SHOULD BE TREATED AS AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT. ARTICLE 28 OF THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDES THAT NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY MAY BE VESTED IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WHEN THE IMPLEMENTING TREATY OR AGREEMENT IS RATIFIED BY A THREE-FIFTHS PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY. THE OPPOSITION ASSERTS THAT ARTICLE 44 APPLIES, WHICH PROVIDES THAT "THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC MAY BY DECREE PROCLAIM A REFERENDUM ON CRUTIAL NATION ISSUES." THE DEBATE IS ACADEMIC, HOWEVER, BECAUSE PRESIDENT TSATSOS, WHO HAD THE AUTHORITY TO CALL FOR A REFERENDUM, WILL CERTAINLY NOT DO SO AGAINST CARAMANLIS' WISHES, AND IT IS CLEAR THAT CARAMANLIS CURRENTLY HAS NO SUCH INTENTIONS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEMBERSHIP, REFERENDUMS, ECONOMIC INTEGRATION  
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**Draft Date:** 25 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
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